

HOUSE BILL 4012

By Armstrong

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,  
relative to donated dental services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section thereto:

§ 68-1-124.

(a) The department of health is authorized to contract with the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (NFDH), or other appropriate and qualified nonprofit organization, to establish and administer a donated dental services program through which volunteer dentists, licensed by the state pursuant to this chapter, will provide comprehensive dental care for needy, disabled, elderly and medically compromised individuals that do not have dental insurance and are not eligible for coverage of dental services through another state or federal medical assistance program.

(b) Subject to appropriations, the contract shall cover the costs incurred by the administering organization in implementing the donated dental services program. The administering organization shall:

(1) Establish a network of volunteer dentists including dental specialists, volunteer dental laboratories and other appropriate volunteer professionals to donate dental services to eligible individuals;

(2) Establish a referral system to match eligible individuals with appropriate volunteers;

(3) Develop and implement a public awareness campaign to inform eligible individuals about the availability of the program;

(4) Provide appropriate administrative and technical support to the program;

(5) Submit an annual report to the department that:

(A) Accounts for all program funds;

(B) Reports the number of individuals served by the program and the number of dentists and dental laboratories participating as providers in the program; and

(C) Reports any other information required by the department;

and

(6) Performs, as required by the department, any other duty relating to the program.

(c) The department shall promulgate rules, pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act compiled in title 4, chapter 5 for the implementation of this program and for the determination of eligible individuals.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.